

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

816

October 24, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

This letter is intended to be a public comment and included as part of the administrative record of Docket No. 16-290. In doing so, we write to ask that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) acts expediently when considering making additional spectrum available in the 1.4 GHz band for Wireless Medical Telemetry Service (WMTS). Wireless Medical Telemetry Services are critical to ensuring that patients receive the best available treatment. Many healthcare facilities across the country are experiencing WMTS saturation and any alternative use of 1.4 GHz spectrum could risk interference to these critical systems. Most WMTS devices operate in this band and making additional spectrum available will ensure that hospitals and medical personnel in both rural and urban areas can continue to provide critical services.

WMTS has become an essential tool that enables doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers to remotely monitor critical indicators of a patient's health, such as cardiac monitoring, fetal monitoring and basic vital signs such as respiration rates or pulse. These devices are widespread and used for important, life-saving care regimens that allow doctors and nurses to detect changes in a patient's condition and respond quickly and efficiently based off the patient data these devices provide. One of the most striking examples of the crucial benefits of WMTS is that the odds of surviving an in-hospital cardiac arrest are twice as high for patients being monitored by a WMTS device.

Positive patient outcomes aided by WMTS are not just limited to patients residing in hospitals and healthcare facilities. Remote patient monitoring is truly changing the lives of rural Americans. The Commission recently stated that "[i]t's becoming harder to recruit doctors to serve rural communities. It's becoming harder to keep rural hospitals afloat. And so it's becoming harder for many rural patients to get health care." Remote patient monitoring is already facilitating better patient outcomes in rural communities by allowing patients to stay in their homes while simultaneously being connected to their primary care doctor. And data shows that by giving patients more mobility and keeping them out of emergency rooms, WMTS is also helping to lower the healthcare costs of those patients.

Today, there are hundreds of thousands of patients in hospitals, healthcare facilities across the country being monitored by devices that only operate properly if the 1.4 GHz spectrum is free of

interference. Making additional spectrum available will ensure this is the case, while also unlocking additional monitoring capacity and driving innovation in health care. As Members of Congress whose constituents are directly impacted by the lack of available spectrum in this area, we ask, within all applicable rules and regulations, that the Commission swiftly considers Docket No. 16-290 in regards to spectrum availability for the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service (WMTS). Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

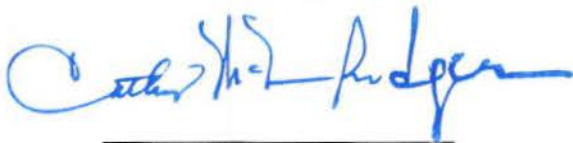
Sincerely,



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



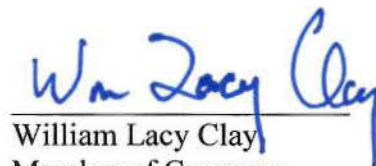
Joe Barton
Member of Congress



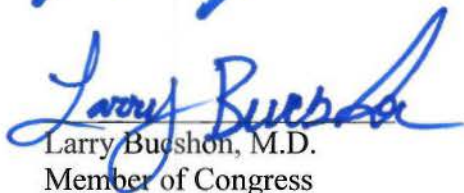
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



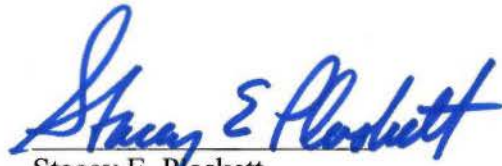
Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress




Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis
Member of Congress



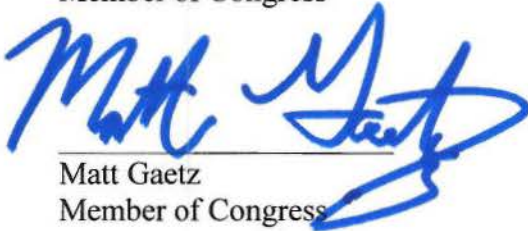
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress



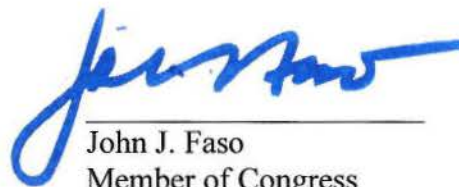
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



John J. Faso
Member of Congress



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Erik Paulsen
U.S. House of Representatives
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

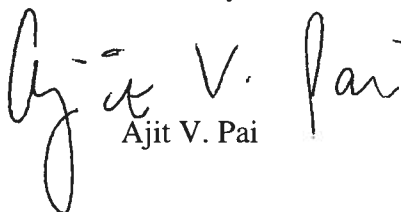
Dear Congressman Paulsen:

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Paul Cook
U.S. House of Representatives
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cook:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Tom MacArthur
U.S. House of Representatives
506 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman MacArthur:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable John J. Faso
U.S. House of Representatives
1616 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

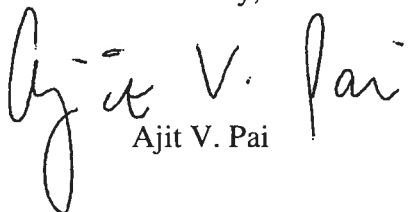
Dear Congressman Faso:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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December 31, 2018

The Honorable David Kustoff
U.S. House of Representatives
508 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kustoff:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. I agree with you that telemedicine and wireless technologies have great potential to improve patient outcomes and reduce the costs of our health care system. That's why in June, the FCC increased funding for the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program by \$171 million a year. That's why under the leadership of Commissioner Brendan Carr, the Commission is taking steps toward creating a \$100 million Connected Care pilot program that would facilitate broader participation by low-income families and veterans in telemedicine programs. That's why the Commission's Connect2Health Task Force has partnered with the National Cancer Institute to study how affordable, available broadband connectivity can impact health care delivery and patient health. And that's why the Commission has examined the potential for Wireless Medical Telemetry Services in different spectrum bands.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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December 31, 2018

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
1620 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

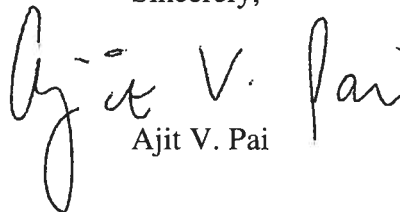
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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December 31, 2018

The Honorable Andy Barr
U.S. House of Representatives
1427 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barr:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Matt Gaetz
U.S. House of Representatives
507 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

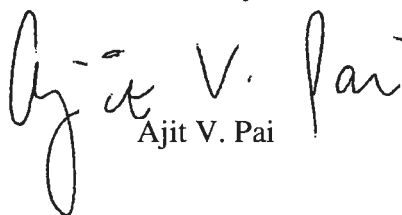
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Poliquin
U.S. House of Representatives
1208 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Poliquin:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Robert Pittenger
U.S. House of Representatives
224 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

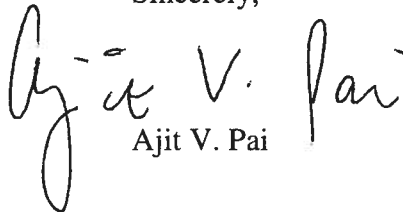
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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December 31, 2018

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
514 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

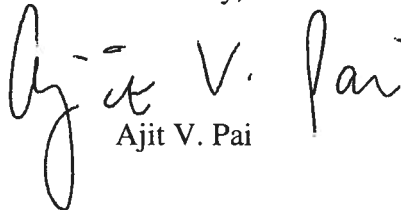
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December 31, 2018

The Honorable Tom Emmer
U.S. House of Representatives
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Emmer:

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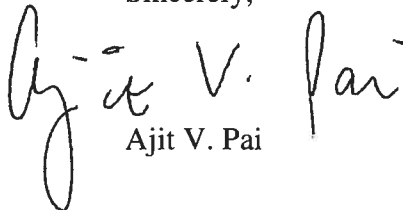
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Jason Mark Lewis
U.S. House of Representatives
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

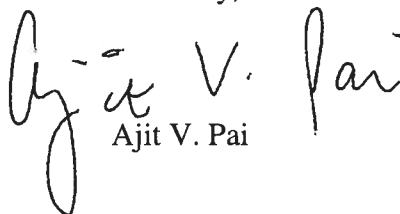
Dear Congressman Lewis:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. I agree with you that telemedicine and wireless technologies have great potential to improve patient outcomes and reduce the costs of our health care system. That's why in June, the FCC increased funding for the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program by \$171 million a year. That's why under the leadership of Commissioner Brendan Carr, the Commission is taking steps toward creating a \$100 million Connected Care pilot program that would facilitate broader participation by low-income families and veterans in telemedicine programs. That's why the Commission's Connect2Health Task Force has partnered with the National Cancer Institute to study how affordable, available broadband connectivity can impact health care delivery and patient health. And that's why the Commission has examined the potential for Wireless Medical Telemetry Services in different spectrum bands.

I agree with you that expanding Wireless Medical Telemetry Services in the 1.4 GHz band is an innovative opportunity—and one that deserves our attention. As you may know, spectrum adjacent to the existing Wireless Medical Telemetry Service allocation was once held by the private entity TerreStar. TerreStar acquired those licenses in 2007 and 2008. Over the subsequent decade, it failed to construct facilities and to put that public resource to use for consumers' benefit—resulting in the termination of those licenses under longstanding Commission rules. TerreStar has asked the Commission to reinstate these terminated licenses. We have received feedback in the record of that proceeding, and I look forward to reviewing that record to determine the best way forward for the medical community and the American people.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Mike Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. I agree with you that telemedicine and wireless technologies have great potential to improve patient outcomes and reduce the costs of our health care system. That's why in June, the FCC increased funding for the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program by \$171 million a year. That's why under the leadership of Commissioner Brendan Carr, the Commission is taking steps toward creating a \$100 million Connected Care pilot program that would facilitate broader participation by low-income families and veterans in telemedicine programs. That's why the Commission's Connect2Health Task Force has partnered with the National Cancer Institute to study how affordable, available broadband connectivity can impact health care delivery and patient health. And that's why the Commission has examined the potential for Wireless Medical Telemetry Services in different spectrum bands.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Stacey Plaskett
U.S. House of Representatives
331 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Plaskett:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. I agree with you that telemedicine and wireless technologies have great potential to improve patient outcomes and reduce the costs of our health care system. That's why in June, the FCC increased funding for the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program by \$171 million a year. That's why under the leadership of Commissioner Brendan Carr, the Commission is taking steps toward creating a \$100 million Connected Care pilot program that would facilitate broader participation by low-income families and veterans in telemedicine programs. That's why the Commission's Connect2Health Task Force has partnered with the National Cancer Institute to study how affordable, available broadband connectivity can impact health care delivery and patient health. And that's why the Commission has examined the potential for Wireless Medical Telemetry Services in different spectrum bands.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Tom Rice
U.S. House of Representatives
223 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

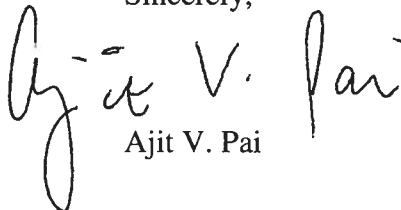
Dear Congressman Rice:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. I agree with you that telemedicine and wireless technologies have great potential to improve patient outcomes and reduce the costs of our health care system. That's why in June, the FCC increased funding for the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program by \$171 million a year. That's why under the leadership of Commissioner Brendan Carr, the Commission is taking steps toward creating a \$100 million Connected Care pilot program that would facilitate broader participation by low-income families and veterans in telemedicine programs. That's why the Commission's Connect2Health Task Force has partnered with the National Cancer Institute to study how affordable, available broadband connectivity can impact health care delivery and patient health. And that's why the Commission has examined the potential for Wireless Medical Telemetry Services in different spectrum bands.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Brenda Lawrence
U.S. House of Representatives
1213 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

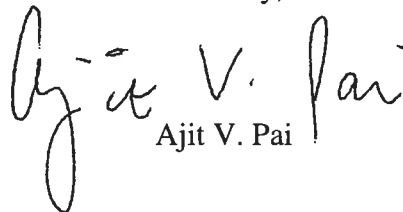
Dear Congresswoman Lawrence:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Larry Bucshon
U.S. House of Representatives
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bucshon:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. I agree with you that telemedicine and wireless technologies have great potential to improve patient outcomes and reduce the costs of our health care system. That's why in June, the FCC increased funding for the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program by \$171 million a year. That's why under the leadership of Commissioner Brendan Carr, the Commission is taking steps toward creating a \$100 million Connected Care pilot program that would facilitate broader participation by low-income families and veterans in telemedicine programs. That's why the Commission's Connect2Health Task Force has partnered with the National Cancer Institute to study how affordable, available broadband connectivity can impact health care delivery and patient health. And that's why the Commission has examined the potential for Wireless Medical Telemetry Services in different spectrum bands.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable William Lacy Clay
U.S. House of Representatives
2428 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

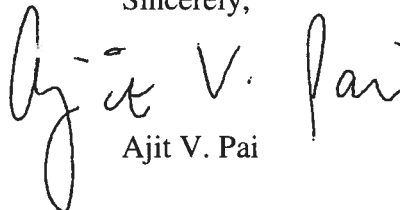
Dear Congressman Clay:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
U.S. House of Representatives
440 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

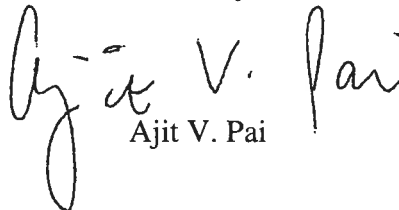
Dear Congressman Diaz-Balart:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Hank Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

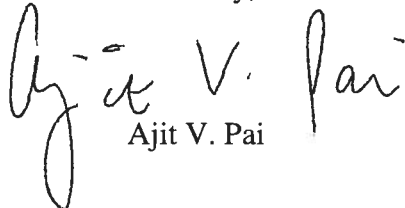
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Joe L. Barton
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

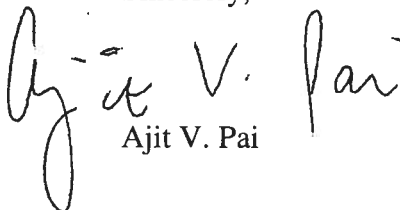
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
137 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kuster:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. I agree with you that telemedicine and wireless technologies have great potential to improve patient outcomes and reduce the costs of our health care system. That's why in June, the FCC increased funding for the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program by \$171 million a year. That's why under the leadership of Commissioner Brendan Carr, the Commission is taking steps toward creating a \$100 million Connected Care pilot program that would facilitate broader participation by low-income families and veterans in telemedicine programs. That's why the Commission's Connect2Health Task Force has partnered with the National Cancer Institute to study how affordable, available broadband connectivity can impact health care delivery and patient health. And that's why the Commission has examined the potential for Wireless Medical Telemetry Services in different spectrum bands.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Susan W. Brooks
U.S. House of Representatives
1030 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

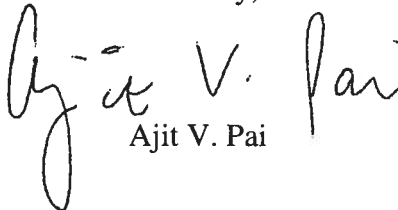
Dear Congresswoman Brooks:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Alma Adams
U.S. House of Representatives
222 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Adams:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service. I agree with you that telemedicine and wireless technologies have great potential to improve patient outcomes and reduce the costs of our health care system. That's why in June, the FCC increased funding for the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program by \$171 million a year. That's why under the leadership of Commissioner Brendan Carr, the Commission is taking steps toward creating a \$100 million Connected Care pilot program that would facilitate broader participation by low-income families and veterans in telemedicine programs. That's why the Commission's Connect2Health Task Force has partnered with the National Cancer Institute to study how affordable, available broadband connectivity can impact health care delivery and patient health. And that's why the Commission has examined the potential for Wireless Medical Telemetry Services in different spectrum bands.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
U.S. House of Representatives
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

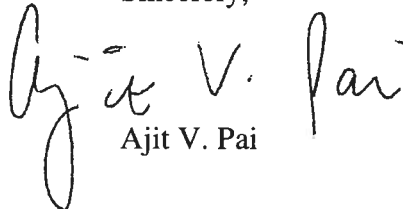
Dear Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Robert A. Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

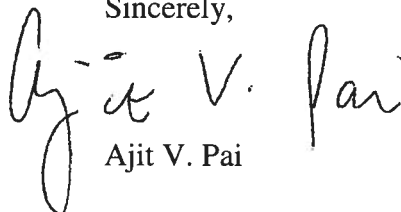
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